

Please replace the abstract with the following amended abstract:

ABSTRACT

A1
A list of potential licensees of a patent portfolio can be generated from a source patent portfolio. To identify the licensees, the source patent portfolio comprising, for example, all the patents owned by a particular entity, can be created. Next, a list of a set of patents that are related to or associated with the patents in the source patent portfolio is generated. The unlicensed assignees of patents in this set of related patents are organized according to various criteria. For example, the assignees could be ranked based on the ratio of total patents held by an assignee to the number of patents in the set of associated patents held by that assignee. Such rankings can provide an indication of assignees that may be potential licensees of the patents in the source patent portfolio.

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 7, 10, 16, 19, and 25 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for determining potential licensees for a source patent portfolio comprising one or more patents, the method comprising:

A2
devising a set of associated patents wherein each patent in the set of associated patents i) cites as a reference a patent in the source patent portfolio or ii) is cited as a reference by a patent in the source patent portfolio;

processing all of the patents in the set of associated patents to establish a set of assignees contained in the set of associated patents;

establishing a set of remaining assignees by removing from the set of assignees all assignees that are currently licensed; and

organizing the set of remaining assignees according to a ranking criteria.

A3
7. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the ranking criteria is expressed as a ratio of the total number of patents held by an assignee to the number of patents held by that assignee in the set of associated patents.

A4
10. (Amended) A computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium;

computer readable instructions embodied on said computer useable medium for determining potential licensees for a source patent portfolio comprising one or more patents, the instructions directing a computer to perform the steps of:

devising a set of associated patents wherein each patent in the set of associated patents i) cites as a reference a patent in the source patent portfolio or ii) is cited as a reference by a patent in the source patent portfolio;

processing all of the patents in the set of associated patents to establish a set of assignees contained in the set of associated patents;

establishing a set of remaining assignees by removing from the set of assignees all assignees that are currently licensed; and

organizing the set of remaining assignees according to a ranking criteria.

A5
16. (Amended) The computer program product of claim 10 wherein the ranking criteria is expressed as a ratio of the total number of patents held by an assignee to the number of patents held by that assignee in the set of associated patents.